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SENATE BILL NO. 474

Offered January 10, 2024 Prefiled January 9, 2024

A BILL to amend and reenact § 22.1-175.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Virginia Public School Construction Grants Program and Fund; career and technical education programs eligible.

Patron—Obenshain

Referred to Committee on Education and Health

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 22.1-175.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows: § 22.1-175.1. Virginia Public School Construction Grants Program established.

A. For the purposes of this chapter, "public school buildings and facilities" or "public school buildings" includes any building or facility used for career and technical education programs provided at any regional comprehensive school established pursuant to § 22.1-26.

B. The Virginia Public School Construction Grants Program is hereby established to provide grants to eligible school divisions for school construction, additions, infrastructure, site acquisition for public school buildings and facilities, and renovations, including the costs of retrofitting or enlarging public school buildings; further, if a school division has completed any such projects during the previous ten 10 years, the grants may be used for debt service payments or a portion thereof. The Program shall be administered by the Board of Education.

Local governing bodies may also establish a separate escrow fund for the deposit of such funds as provided in § 22.1-175.5.

2. That the Board of Education shall update the guidelines it is required to issue pursuant to § 22.1-175.3 of the Code of Virginia to explicitly clarify that grants provided to any qualifying school division under the Virginia Public School Construction Grants Program may be used for construction, additions, infrastructure, site acquisition, and renovations for buildings and facilities used for career and technical education programs provided at a regional comprehensive school.